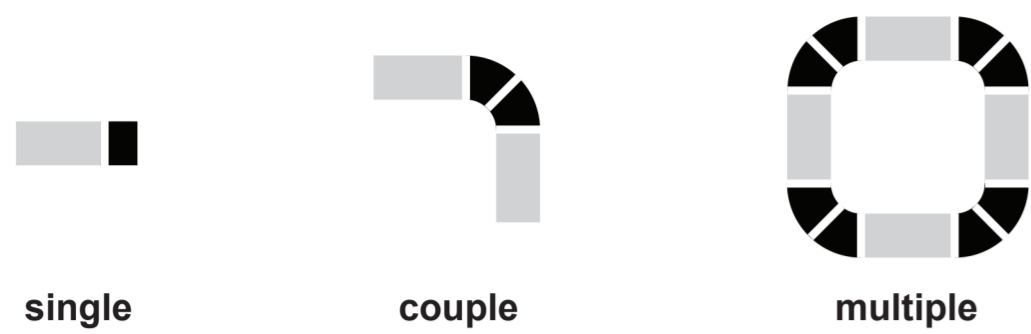


IGLU - TO - IGLUIT
HOME - TO - HOMES



The type of housing unit which dominates in Nunavik is a box like approximation of the typical Canadian suburban house. Whether they are designed remotely and shipped in, or hacked together on site, their geometry is pragmatically simple, relying on the efficiency of the right angle for ease of construction and continued adaptation.

The pattern of placement along a service network inspired by suburban planning falsely supplants the communal patterns of the Inuit settlements of a pre-colonial nomadic existence.

This suburban spatial pattern descends from the North American paradigm for private land ownership and independence from neighbors. This is problematic given the physical and cultural necessities of Nunavik's climate. Is there a way to subtly reconfigure the urban pattern, recognizing that at the scale of the unit, 90 degree boxes are inherently practical?



source: View of the Ivujivik trading post in winter, 1951. Musée de la civilisation, Chauvel

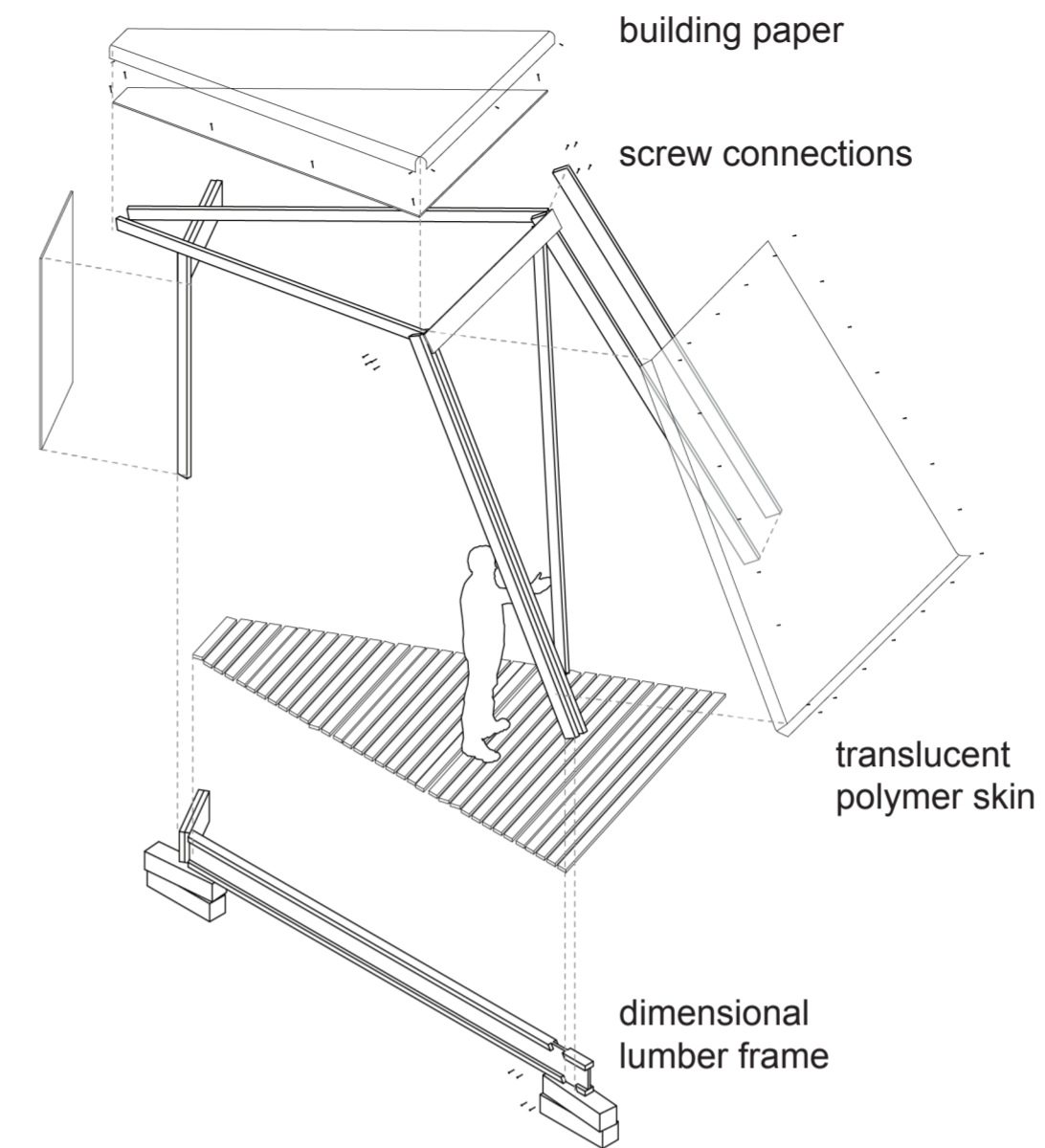
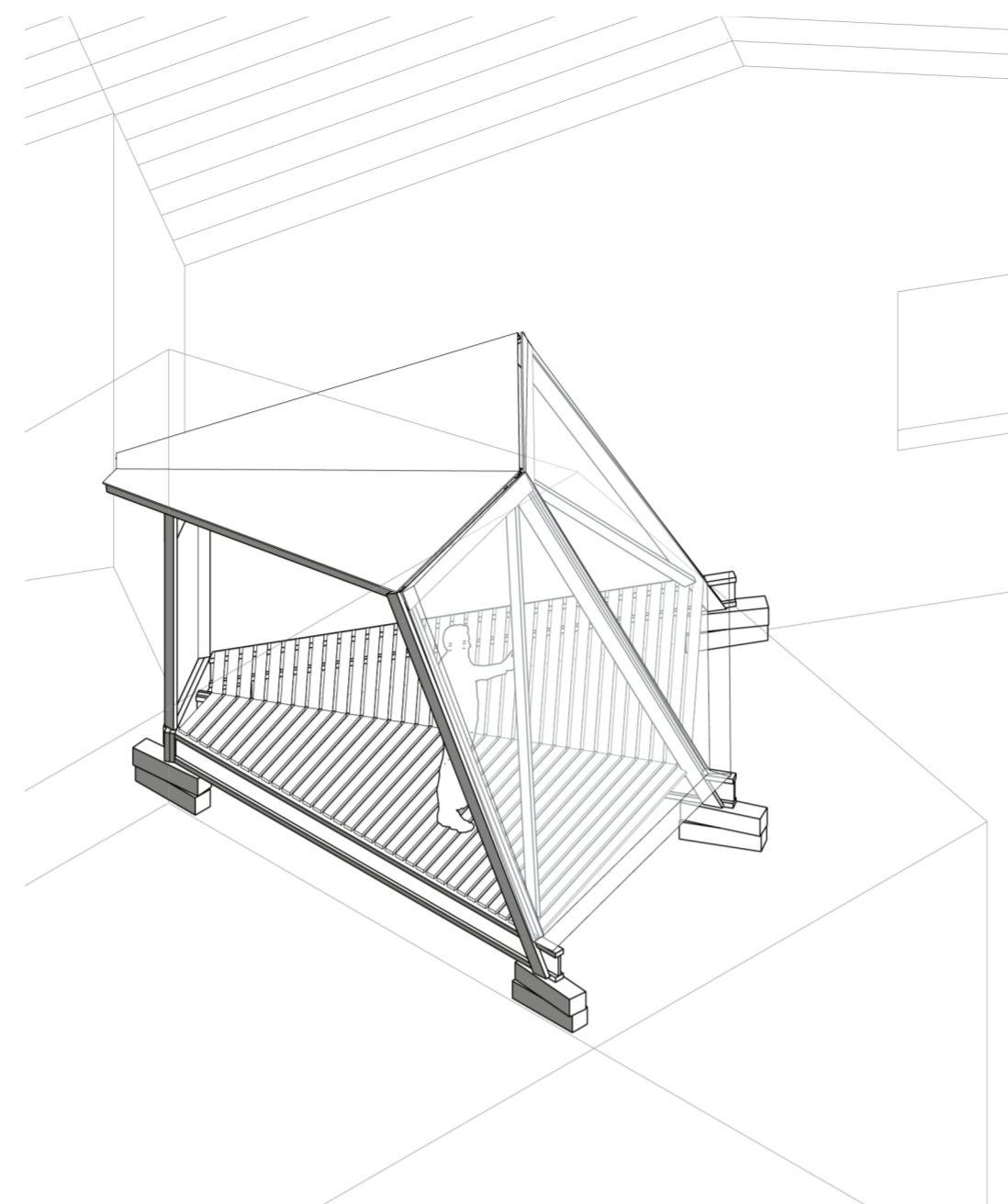
Our proposal operates at multiple scales;

at the urban scale we suggest an easily repeatable intervention (an inflection of the typical right angle) which begins to join together disparate housing units, and aggregate the typical utilitarian box into patterns enclosing circular common space.

At the scale of the home the proposal is a modest addition which can be used to support the relevant seasonal activity of food production and preparation.

We proscribe a standard form, but suggest its construction using the common materials available: those usually incorporated into the design of an improvised residence. Our proposed model is highly specific, but the fundamental idea is of **an addition sprouting at an angle to the wall of the house.**

As a means of reducing the reliance on foreign material, we propose a hybrid of the contemporary and ancient techniques of construction, incorporating the age-old building material of snow to supplement the insulation and wind resistance of a light structure.



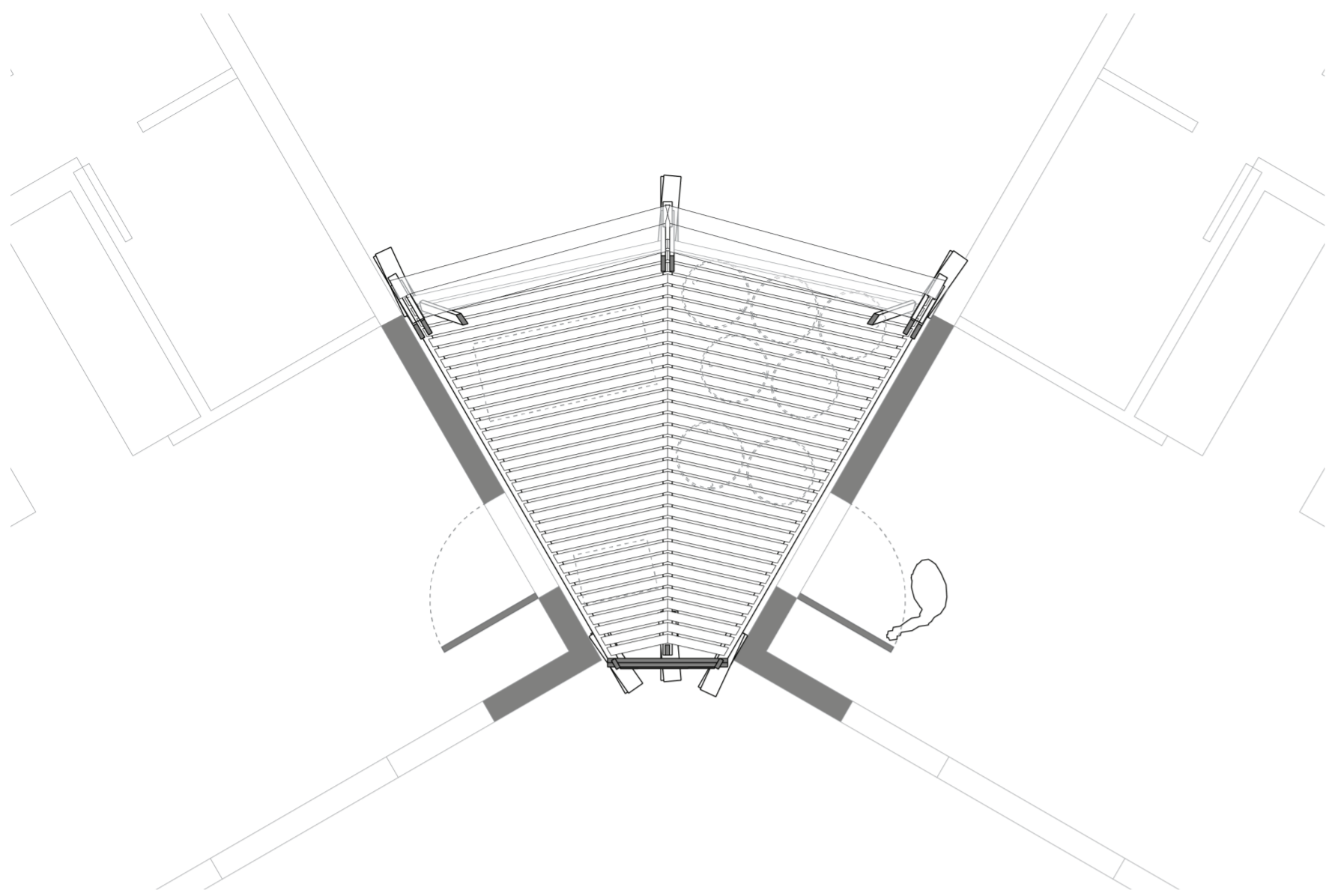
construction

The frame is composed of a regular structural module, which is stabilized on at least one side against an existing structure.

The concept is of a repeatable module, but its actual construction is dependent on the materials on hand. Connections between elements are typical of improvised ones, employing a few screws and nails to fasten roughly shaped wood.

Conceivably the light structure is made from dimensional lumber and scraps of plywood, with a skin of transparent vapor barrier and or building paper. The suggested geometry is meant to increase resistance to the wind forces likely to load it most intensely, rather than relying on stiff joints and shear walls for horizontal load resistance.



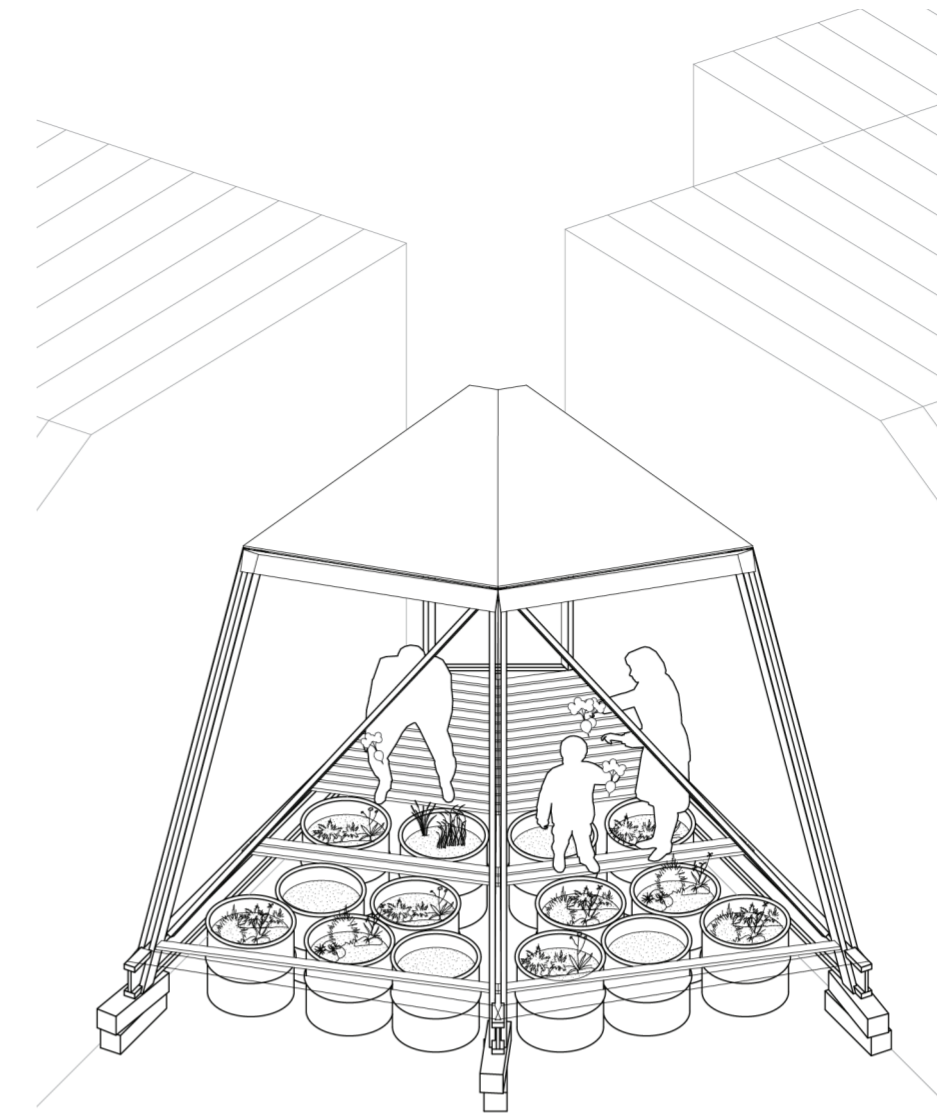


plan

Adjoining rectilinear units at a subtle angle, the space could be used as a common threshold. Aggregation of multiple results in a sheltered connection, enabling frequent communication otherwise tiresome in winter.



source: Arviat, Nunavut Young Adults Are Learning To Grow Their Own Produce. Huffington Post Canada, Prestwich. 2016

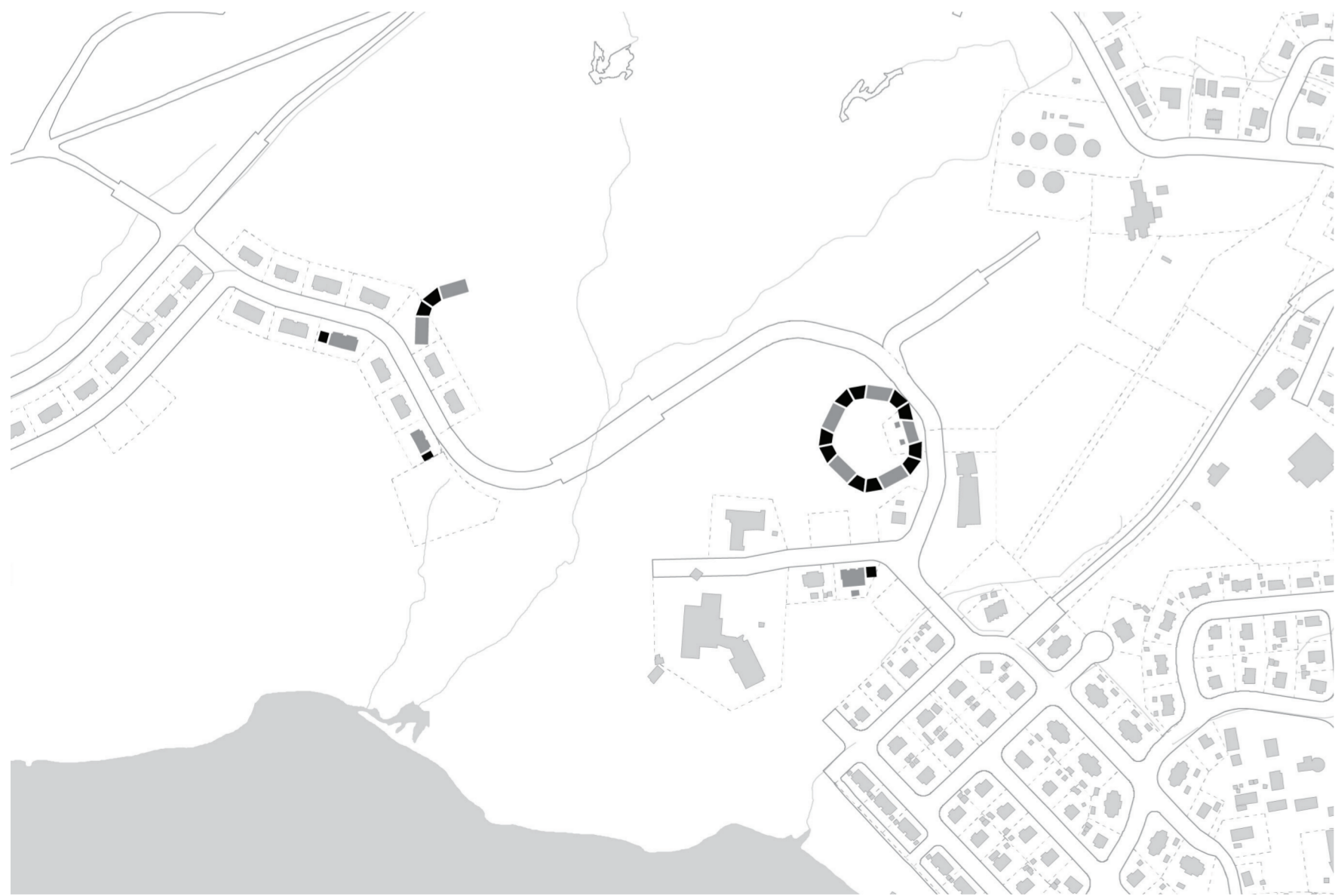


summer

Food security, especially the access to fresh produce is of primary importance in Nunavik. This is only likely to be more so with growing ecological and political pressures on the hunter and fisherman's daily life.

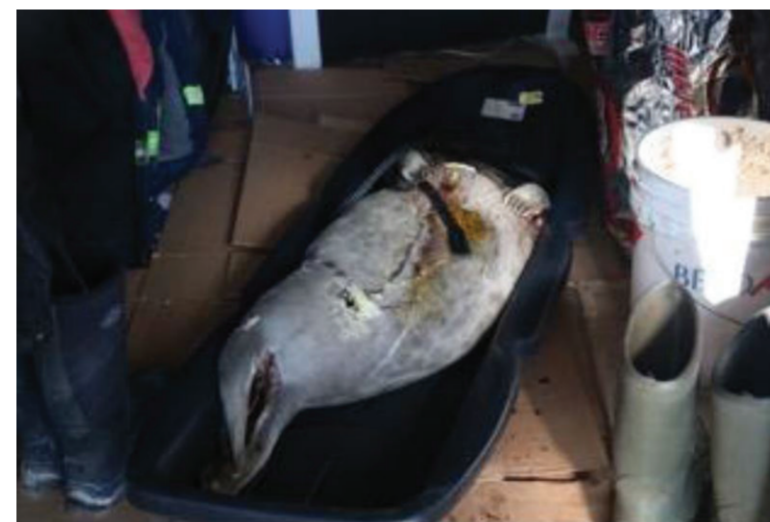
Small greenhouses set up to grow hardy crops like lettuce, spinach and radishes are not uncommon in other Inuit territories.

Such a function would take advantage of the milder weather and temperatures in the summer, using the enclosed space to grow root vegetables and winter greens within a short season.

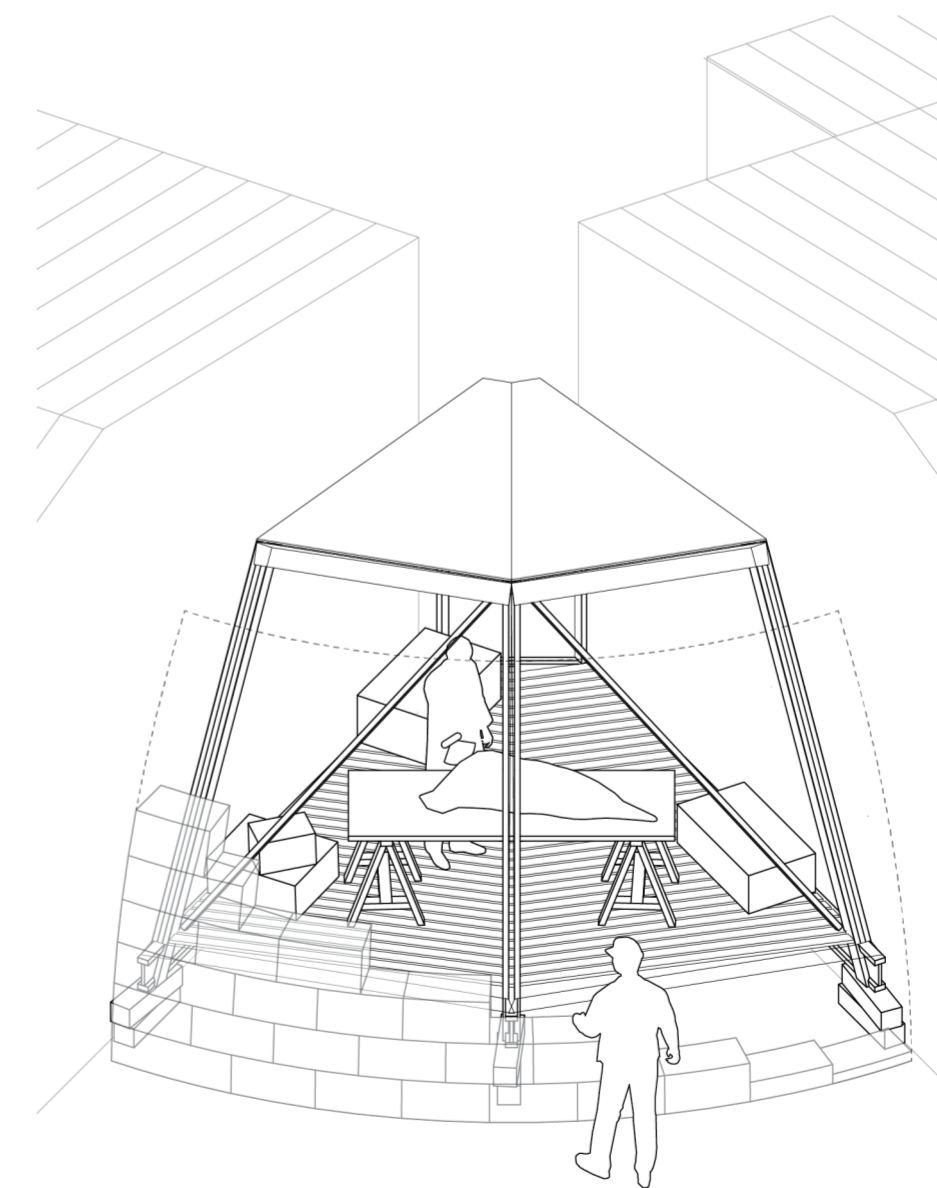


projected development

An initial implementation between one or two existing homes, could eventually be extended to several newly built or existing units displaced by sled. The resulting configuration produces a sheltered common space, spatially supporting the solidaritous social structures important to survival in the North.



source: Reassembling the North / Recomposer le Nord, 2016 CCA Interuniversity Charrette. 2016



winter

During the winter, the space would take on other functions. As a wind sheltered intermediate space between the home(s) and the harsh exterior, it would serve as a preparation and storage room for the skinning and dressing of fish and game.

Abutting a sloped wall of snow bricks against the wind-ward face of the shelter, and allowing for some built up snow on the roof, the space could be well insulated as a relatively comfortable work area or passage into the home proper.

The houses adjoining the structure could potentially have secondary access onto the sheltered space, rather than directly to the exterior. Thus several could be joined through a wind-sheltered space.